

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 21 was objected to for depending from itself; claims 1, 27, 28, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,918,937 to Fineblum ("the Fineblum patent"); and claims 1-35 were rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-24 of U.S. Patent No. 6,418,745 to Ratliff ("the Ratliff patent").

By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11-14, 21, 27, and 30 have been amended and claims 2, 28, and 29 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-27, and 30-35 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added by this Reply.

Claim 21 has been amended to correct its dependency. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the objection to this claim.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 27, 28, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fineblum. In order to expedite prosecution of the present case, however, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to generally include the subject matter of dependent claim 2. Claim 2 was not rejected in view of the Fineblum patent. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Similarly, independent claim 27 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 28 and 29, which were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicant thus requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection with respect to claim 27, as well as claim 35, which depends from claim 27.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the double patenting rejection of claims 1-35 in view of the Ratliff patent. Pending independent claims 1 and 15 each

recite a method including, *inter alia*, selectively supercharging refrigerant supplied to a compressor. In addition, independent claim 27 now recites, *inter alia*, a supercharger located between a heat exchanger and a compressor. The Ratliff patent does not disclose or suggest for example, among other things, the supercharger or the supercharging recited in pending independent claims 1, 15, and 27. For at least this reason, Applicant requests withdrawal of the double patenting rejection.

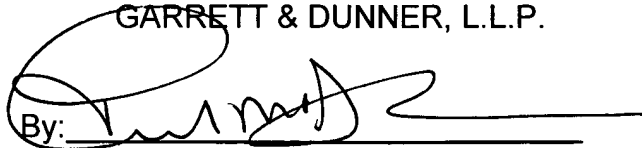
Claims 3-14, 16-26, and 30-35 depend from one of independent claims 1, 15, and 27, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons claims 1, 15, and 27 are allowable. In addition, each of the dependent claims recites unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art, and therefore each also are separately patentable.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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